

Act, which was enacted after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Even though reining in civil liberties seemed appropriate for national security reasons in the immediate aftermath, there have been unintended consequences whereby our basic civil rights have been infringed. The debate over the role of the National Security Agency is currently being adjudicated in federal courts because many people feel that their fourth amendment rights are being violated. The expansion and retraction of our rights must continually be examined, and the government must provide enforcement of these rights to all citizens to create a bond of trust between the people and the government.

Secondly, education should be available to all citizens, policies must be transparent, information should be widely accessible, and diverse points of views should be encouraged. When citizens in a democracy are educated, democracy functions much more effectively. Across countries, education and democracy are highly correlated. In other words, those who receive poor education are less likely to be politically active. Also, less educated people are more vulnerable to propaganda and false information, leaving them susceptible to vote based on the influence of others. Citizens also deserve access to uncensored information. In regimes where information is tightly controlled, citizens are restricted from developing their own opinions and this limits their capacity to fully engage in the political process. It is the government's responsibility to provide basic education and ensure freedom of the press so that citizens are engaged and empowered to play a part in a successful democracy.

Finally, citizens must fulfill their civic duties in a democracy. These include voting and jury duty but can also be as simple as staying updated on current issues and obeying the law. Unfortunately, many of these simple duties are commonly overlooked. Even in the last presidential election in 2012, where there was a record voter turnout only about 60% of registered voters voted. Thus, the voice of around 40% of people was not heard in the ballot. Similarly, fulfilling civic responsibilities is necessary for democracy to work well. For example, jury duty has been difficult to implement. According to Sun Sentinel, in South Florida about two of every three people skip jury duty with or without being exempted. Jurors in South Florida have only a 41% response rate and 3,000 people must be requested to fill 1,000 jury spots because of the high rejection rate. This may be an extreme case, but the lack of commitment to civic responsibility is not unique to Florida. Complacency in civic involvement ultimately leads to erosion of democracy and make our system stale and unsustainable.

The "lesser undertakings which the American citizens perform every day" are essential in a democracy because government cannot fulfill all the needs of citizens. In a successful democracy individual rights and liberties must be applied impartially, education and current information must be readily available, and the citizens must do their part to allow the law to be applied fairly. America has survived and struggled through adversities to become one of the longest living democracies in the world because of its strong commitment to the Constitution, impartial application of the law and unrestricted information from varying political opinions. Democracy is an active and dynamic process, and flourishes with self-examination and engagement of its citizens, but languishes with complacency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me today in honoring Andrew Tan, an extraordinary young man, for his deep understanding

of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our nation, and for his ability to write about it in a cogent, understandable and inspiring style. He is an inspiration to all of us and he is an eloquent statement about the youth of our nation.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS STATE BANK NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 100 years of business by the Citizens State Bank Norwood Young America in Minnesota.

In 1914, Peter Effertz opened the bank on 214 Elm Street where it remained for its first seventy years. Albert Kehrer acquired the bank in 1930 followed by Donald Kehrer beginning in 1952. Later, during the time when Clinton Kurtz and Leonard Lano owned the bank (1979–1999), it was moved to its present location on US Highway 212. The bank is now under the ownership of Paul Pieschel who continues to lead it with the original philosophy of wanting to make a difference in the everyday lives of the people it serves.

Over the last 100 years, this community bank has worked hard to meet the needs of its customers—from a place to tie off a horse or park a Model T Ford to on-line banking and ATMs. Their motto is "Person to person. Neighbor to neighbor. Yesterday, today and tomorrow." and they take pride in going above and beyond what their customers expect.

The stability of both its ownership and leadership, and the sincere interest the employees have in each unique customer situation has provided genuine person-to-person connections with their customers for 100 years. As their recent newsletter states, "Our long-term philosophy creates trust and motivates our customers to refer their neighbors and friends to the bank."

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring Citizens State Bank Norwood Young America upon reaching this noteworthy centennial milestone and to wish them continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMPHILL SOLTANE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Camphill Soltane of Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 25th anniversary of exemplary service in providing educational, vocational, and residential services for young adults with developmental disabilities. This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of Camphill Soltane for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 25 years, the men and women of Camphill Soltane have dedicated themselves

to enabling young adults and adults with special needs to identify and pursue their interests, exercise their talents, and develop their skills that they may enjoy a rich and satisfying life and make valued contributions to the world. A member of the international Camphill Movement, which began in Scotland 70 years ago, Camphill Soltane continues the Movement's tradition of approaching the individual with special needs as a valued member of society worthy of love, dignity, and the opportunity to realize goals and dreams.

Camphill Soltane's varied residential settings on its 52 acre Glenmoore site, and affiliated houses in Phoenixville, provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to live as independently as possible within a supportive community environment. For the last quarter century, this groundbreaking model has served to foster relationships based on mutual respect while encouraging the ongoing development of life and social skills.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its 25 years of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Camphill Soltane for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE TEAM INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF ARSON AT MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

The 12 members of the team investigating a case of arson at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Investigative Merit Award: Lt. Dave Cooper, Lt. Brad Miller, and Lt. Angel Tyson of the Fire Marshal's Office; Supervising Special Agent Steve Avato, Special Agent Chad Campanell, and Special Agent Paul Parisi of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Detective Saemi Kitchens, Detective Maria Cervantes, Crime Analyst Supervisor Dawn Locke-Trillhaase and Detective Jason Callahan of the Prince William County Police Department; Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Claiborne T.